

IS ANYBODY RUNNING FOR OFFICE WHO WANTS TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE?

By N. D. Cochran.

Doubtless you have noticed that The Day Book hasn't worked itself into a frenzy over the spring election.

The reason is that Chicago politics is too far away for me. I see no way for the people to get their hands on it. Anyhow, not this year.

If I could be sure any candidate for alderman in any ward, for instance, actually wanted to represent the people, then I'd be glad to say so. And I wouldn't care whether he happened to be a Democrat, Republican, Progressive, Socialist or Independent.

But most of the candidates appear to represent some boss or faction and expect to keep on doing so after election. So what's the use?

Men have been elected before as Hearst-Harrison cadets, as Sullivan, West, Lorimer, Lawson or some other kind of cadets. And they took their orders from the boss, faction or newspaper they happened to be hitched up to.

I haven't noticed any of them working overtime to represent the people. Even the candidates endorsed by the Municipal Voters' League or other reform organizations represent the business instead of the people of Chicago.

In the eye of the officeholders in Chicago, the business men are the people—and the men, women and children who work and make Chicago are nothing at all.

Maybe that's because the newspapers represent Big Business instead of the people. And why land is the dearest and human life is the cheapest thing in Chicago.

Mayor Harrison was elected as a Democrat, Busse as a Republican, and both represented business interests instead of the people.

Every time there was trouble between employers and employes the police force was lined up to fight the battle of the employer and to help club employes into submission.

And little business is in the same fix as the workers. Big Business is in the loop. Hence the loop is Chicago.

So Chicago must be governed by the loop, even if the wages of policemen, firemen and street cleaners have to be cut 20 per cent and the whole town is filthy dirty outside the loop—or out where Big Business sleeps at night or runs its autops in the day time.

If the aldermen outside of the loop would faithfully represent the people who elect them, the loop couldn't govern Chicago for the loop. The loop couldn't get anything except what the people of Chicago outside the loop felt it ought to have.

But the big advertisers are in the loop and the newspapers are in the loop. And the people all over town get their information about politics and politicians from the loop newspapers.

The people form their political opinions on the information about men and affairs that they get in the newspapers. The opinions may be honest enough, but they may be based on dishonest and misleading information.

Too many voters in Chicago let the newspapers do their thinking and voting for them. The newspapers pretend to tell officeholders what the people want, but it's only what the newspapers want the people to want,